

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, she has been an invaluable assistant, as has the staff of my committee, together with the staff of Senator LOTT, and others who have been working on this important piece of legislation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

ACCESS TO FIREARM PARTS

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, today in the Detroit Free Press, there is a story about a potential nightmare in Michigan. The article alleges that Kevin Olender, a felon convicted of assault with a dangerous weapon was preparing an attack on his co-workers in Farmington Hills. According to the article, Olender was able to evade background checks required by the Brady law, by purchasing a gun in parts. Allegedly, Olender was only one part away from finishing the construction of his firearm, and that part was expected within days.

In the end, investigators prevented any shoot-out, but the article highlights another loophole in federal firearm law that gives felons access to firearms which would otherwise be forbidden. I urge my colleagues to close this loophole and the many others in our federal law.

I ask that the Detroit Free Press article about this loophole be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Detroit Free Press, Feb. 23, 2000]
FELON'S GUN CHARGES SHOW NET LOOPHOLE—
POLICE SAY SUSPECT WAS ABLE TO BUY
PARTS ON-LINE

(By L.L. Brasier and Ruby L. Bailey)

With a credit card and the Internet, Kevin Olender had everything he needed to find parts for an assault rifle.

It was no problem, even for a felon.

Four days after Christmas last year, Olender went shopping. He ordered a \$199.95 parts package for a military-style rifle from Interordnance, an Internet gun dealer based in Monroe, N.C. He bought another parts package from the firm Feb. 4.

Police and prosecutors say Olender, 40, of Wyandotte, was preparing for an assault on co-workers at Compuware in Farmington Hills. He only needed one more part, known as a receiver, to finish building a working gun.

The part was on order, police say. But authorities raided his home last Friday and arrested him.

"He was ready to do it," Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer said Tuesday. "I think we saved a lot of lives."

Dwyer said his investigators found evidence that Olender had located the receiver, a palm-sized part that holds pieces together and makes the gun fire, and expected it within days. Dwyer would not say how investigators determined that.

A person with a felony background is prohibited from possessing a gun or ammunition. But there's a loophole in federal law. Though dealers cannot sell a gun without a background check, they can sell gun parts, weapons experts said.

Ulrich Wiegand, owner of Interordnance, said he did not check Olender's background when filling his order.

"No, of course not," he said. "We are not required to because we weren't selling him a gun."

Olender was convicted in 1996 in Detroit Recorder's Court of a felony, assault with a dangerous weapon, court records show. He received five years' probation.

Wiegand said he sells many parts packages, but declined to say how many.

"You have to understand, we did not send him guns," Wiegand said. "This is nothing but parts, and he could do nothing with them without a receiver."

Wiegand said his company sells fully assembled weapons only to federally licensed firearm dealers.

But Dwyer said Olender's easy access to gun components on the Internet points out the need for new laws.

"It is like the old West, only with no sheriff in town," Dwyer said. "You've got sexual predators, violent people buying guns. We need to come up with some safeguards."

Olender is being held in the Wayne County Jail on a charge of possessing a firearm as a felon, and using a firearm in a felony.

Olender could face federal charges for possessing ammunition as a felon. Agents for the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms are investigating what charges may be filed, said Vera Fedorak, an agency spokeswoman.

During Friday's raid, authorities recovered two disassembled rifles from Olender's basement, as well as a manual for assembling the guns. They also found hundreds of rounds of ammunition, including steel-nosed bullets designed to penetrate bullet-proof vests.

Investigators found that he was missing receivers, also known as frames, used to hold the gun pieces in place.

To purchase a receiver, Olender should have been subjected to a background check, by law. Dwyer and others would not comment further about the receiver.

Without the receiver, what Olender had was like "a car without a motor," said Victor Reid, co-owner of Midwest Ordnance Gun Shop in Royal Oak.

A receiver would cost \$300 to \$400, he said. The part is regulated by the federal government, has a serial number, and cannot be sold without a license.

"They are virtually impossible to get illegally," said Reid, who said he does not sell gun kits at the store, or on the company's Web site. "It's not an item that you can just go buy."

The packages that Olender bought from the North Carolina firm consisted of gun parts from military weapons dating to the 1950s, and disassembled overseas. The packages are popular among collectors and sportsmen, who acquire the needed receivers through dealers, and reassemble the guns.

Police said they are investigating where Olender got the ammunition.

Concerns about guns and the Internet have prompted federal lawmakers to pursue legislation targeting Internet sales of guns.

Hundreds of Internet sites advertise weapons for sale.

Many are dealers who comply with federal laws. But individuals often don't, said Jim Kessler, policy director for U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y. Schumer has sponsored a bill that would make it illegal for anyone except licensed gun dealers to buy and sell guns over the Internet. The measure is pending.

"Nobody's watching," Kessler said. "The Internet itself presents a giant loophole in gun laws."

When searching for guns over the Internet, buyers can't legally make the purchase directly on-line, gun experts said.

Buyers scan Web sites where guns are advertised, then contact a dealer and complete the purchase. The dealer must ship the weapon to another gun dealer, who is required to make sure that the buyer fills out the re-

quired forms and undergoes a background check.

"It's not like someone can put their credit card in a Web site and get a gun," said Trish Hylton, spokeswoman for the National Rifle Association.

She said the Internet "is like a classified ad. The person selling and the person purchasing have to abide by all the laws that are in place."•

RETENTION OF MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS

• Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to offer excerpts from three very insightful, thought provoking articles recently published in the U.S. Naval Institute magazine PROCEEDINGS. These articles were written by enlisted service members on the very important subject of retention of enlisted personnel in our Armed Forces. This is one of the most critical issues facing our military services today and I am encouraged by the solutions our senior enlisted personnel have offered as it shows their deep concern for their people, their service and their country. Allow me to share with you some of these perceptive views on this complex problem:

Senior Chief Navy Counselor Paul T. Pierce, USN writes, "... what is the number-one reason that sailors—talented sailors, the ones we want to keep—cite as their greatest dissatisfier? It is not pay or even family separation. Those issues always are near the top, but the number one reason sailors give for separating from the service is lack of advancement opportunity." He further states, "The evidence is intuitive and irrefutable that we cannot build a force of professionals if we afford them virtually zero advancement opportunity. It is really that simple. . . . The fact remains that today's sailors are smart enough to grasp that promises of better opportunity made through almost ten years of draw down simply are not likely to materialize in any meaningful way in a 'steady-state' Navy. This generation of young sailors and junior officers believes it has stupendous opportunities outside the Navy. Real or imagined, that siren's call is beckoning to them—imploping them to leave us. At the same time, many of them, particularly our mid-grade, second-term enlisted technicians, have qualities that make them highly marketable on the outside. . . . If we want to make real headway retaining sailors, then we must make the restoration of advancement opportunity a readiness imperative."

Master Chief Machinist's Mate James P. Russell, USN writes, "Recognizing what sailors need is not an easy task. Sailors will always tell you they want more money. If we continue to chase the sailor's paycheck as the retention tool of choice, we will reach a point where we no longer can afford the price. It is unreasonable to expect that the Navy will be able to meet the perks and extras from our competition. It is the intangibles that will make the sailor stay for a career. We have things to

offer that no company on earth can match: the opportunity to make a difference; structured guidance and support throughout a career; responsibility at a level unmatched anywhere; a retirement plan that is guaranteed to be there at the end of a career; respect recognized throughout the world; the chance to grow and develop in an environment that is tolerant of mistakes; camaraderie that cannot be matched by any corporation; and an opportunity to experience all this in a global environment.

The person who needs to be able to transmit the knowledge of those perks to the sailor, and to make sure they are available, is that sailor's chief. Sailors are happiest when: they have a clearly defined mission; have ownership of their work environment; are held to fair, consistent and sensible standards; their families live in a clean, safe, and relatively comfortable location; and they receive recognition and pay that reflect the importance of what they do for their country. As the Navy leadership focuses on the first and the last, the responsibility of fighting for the rest lies squarely on the shoulders of the chief. The bottom line? Keep sailors happy and they will stick around."

And finally, Master Sergeant Michael M. Green, USAF writes, "Our military and political leadership express serious concern for the ever-growing retention and recruiting problems facing the enlisted force, and have initiated moderate pay improvements to help resolve these problems. Much more can and must be done, however, to address the real financial needs and expectations of our enlisted warriors. The chief shortfalls of the current pay structure are in basic pay, the basic allowance for subsistence (BAS) and education incentives." He concludes, "There are innumerable reasons why patriots choose and continue to serve in our nation's military. There are significantly fewer reasons why they opt to leave. Financial compensation is the chief concern to both young recruits and old wardogs. Fashioning a more equitable pay and allowance structure will greatly entice tomorrow's warriors into service as well as to keep today's enlisted force serving proudly. . . . Our enlisted force is not composed of second-class citizens. It is a collection of the guardians of our nation and our national interests. It is time they are compensated that way."

These veterans have poignantly put forward their thoughts on a most difficult issue in an honest and sincere fashion. Mr. President, I thank you for the opportunity to share their views with you and the Nation they serve.●

IN HONOR OF JIMMY DON HUDSON

● Mr. BREAUX, Mr. President, on behalf of Senator LANDRIEU, I rise with great sorrow on the passing of Jimmy Don Hudson of Monroe, Louisiana. He was a friend to me, Senator LANDRIEU and all those who knew him.

It has been said that Jimmy Don had a gift that made everyone think they were his best friend. A dedicated husband and father, Jimmy Don worked hard every day for the people of Monroe and the state of Louisiana.

A tireless public servant, Jimmy Don served on numerous boards and commissions. He was president of the Tensas Basin Levee District. He also held leadership roles on, to name a few, the Monroe Chamber of Commerce, the Governor's Commission on Higher Education, the Monroe Downtown Economic Development District, the West Monroe Boys and Girls Club, the United Way of Northeast Louisiana and the Ouachita Council on Aging.

Jimmy Don also served his country in the Vietnam War. As a helicopter pilot, he logged more than 1,000 hours of flight time while making sure both wounded and able-bodied American soldiers were out of harm's way. After his tour of duty, Jimmy Don continued his military service in the Army National Guard until 1996, logging an additional 2,800 hours of seat time.

Mr. President, some say the best people die at an early age. This is certainly true in Jimmy Don's case. Although he only spent 52 years with us on this earth, his legacy will live forever. Senator LANDRIEU and I extend our condolences to his wife Pam, and sons Brandon and Gabe. Jimmy Don will be sorely missed.

I have attached an editorial written by Keith Prince of the Monroe (La.) News-Star that describes Jimmy Don well, and request it be included following my statement.

[From the Monroe (La.) News-Star]

(By Keith Prince)

HUDSON WAS ABLE TO MAKE EVERYONE FEEL LIKE HIS BEST FRIEND

It's never easy to say goodbye.

It is even more difficult when it is someone in the prime of life, at the very pinnacle of his professional and personal life.

Jimmy Don Hudson fits that description perfectly.

Why his heart failed last Saturday night while in Washington, D.C., attending Mardi Gras festivities is unknown. An avid pilot, Hudson had passed a flight physical exam just two weeks ago.

All we do know today is that countless friends feel a very real loss and have his wife, Pam, and sons, Brandon and Gabe, in their thoughts and prayers.

There's a lot of great qualities that we will all remember about Jimmy Don, but the list should start with the tremendous dedication he had for his family. He spent a lot of time with his sons and it shows, said longtime friend George Luffey.

The uniqueness of this man is his rare ability to easily handle the boundary of business associate-friend that some people never figure out.

Jimmy Don was capable of being both a very effective and successful ambassador for BellSouth and at the same time make everyone he knew feel special.

The comment Sunday by State Rep. Francis Thompson summed up Jimmy Don perfectly. He had that gift of making everyone think they were his best friend.

Personally, anytime we visited I walked away feeling better. He was always positive,

uplifting and you had no doubt he was interested in you and what you had going on.

Very unassuming, Hudson had moved steadily up the ranks in the corporate world of BellSouth, and I suspect that the company long ago recognized the same qualities that all the rest of us grew to appreciate in this man.

He began at what was then South Central Bell working summers in the coin department while a student at Northeast Louisiana State College.

Except for a highly decorated tour of duty with the Army during the Vietnam War, Hudson never left the telephone company and next month would have marked his 28th year there.

Linda Williams had worked with Jimmy Don in the public relations office at BellSouth since he moved into that department in 1985, and she doesn't remember a bad moment.

He was very kind-hearted and wonderful to work with. He was always trying to help others and never sought out any recognition for it. He loved life and I think he made a real difference in the lives of many in our community.

Hudson also made a major difference for many wounded American soldiers during the Vietnam War. After going through ROTC at the college and graduating in 1969, he entered the Army as a second lieutenant and later served as an aviation platoon leader and helicopter pilot in Vietnam. One of his assignments was to rescue U.S. soldiers downed in the field.

He wouldn't talk much about that, but I understand he had over 1,000 combat hours and was one of the best helicopter pilots over there, said Luffey.

Of course, it is impossible to characterize Jimmy Don Hudson without recalling his sense of humor. He was the master of comebacks, said Luffey. You might think you had him pinned down with a comment but he was always able to get in the last word.

One of Hudson's lifelong friendships began when, as a high school student, he worked for Jackie Neal, then the director of parks and recreation for the city of Monroe.

He did whatever we needed—mow grass, line off the fields, umpire a little. He was something else. I've always said Jimmy Don is the only person I ever fired twice in one day. First he and Petey Smith got two trucks stuck, and later I needed him and finally found him playing basketball at one of the recreation centers, Neal recalled.

Later Neal and Hudson officiated football games together for 10 years. We finally gave that up, and he began playing golf in his spare time. He's been like a little brother to me. We talked on the phone or saw each other often. Any time I've ever been sick, Jimmy Don would call every day.

I can't tell you how much I will miss him, added Neal.

And, so will everyone else lucky enough to have known Jimmy Don Hudson.●

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today in honor and acknowledgment of African American History Month, a great tradition honoring and celebrating African Americans. This 74 year tradition, proposed by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a son of former slaves, seeks to broaden our vision of the world, the legacy of African Americans in our nation's history, and their role in our nation's future.